

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2131 - SB 2194

February 23, 2002

SUMMARY OF BILL: Provides that a voter who desires to vote early shall go to the county election commission office within the posted hours not more than 15 days before the day of the election until election day. Present law provides that a person desiring to vote shall go to the county election commission office not more than 20 days nor less than 5 days before the day of the election.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase Local Govt. Expenditures* - Exceeds \$100,000

This bill shifts the dates of early voting and eliminates the time between early voting and election day. Currently, many counties use voting machines for both early voting and election day. The provisions of this bill will eliminate this option since (1) machines used for early voting would have to be tallied and reset before they could be used on election day and this could not be accomplished overnight, and (2) machines would have to be transported from the early voting satellites to the precincts and set up for use on election day. Therefore, many counties will be forced to purchase additional voting machines to accommodate early voting and election day. The type and number of voting machines that would need to be purchased will depend on the situation in each individual county. Currently, latest generation voting machines cost approximately \$4,000 each.

**Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director

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